



**YAGAN** (?–1833), an Aborigine who resisted white settlement in the Swan River colony, was the son of Midgegeroo and Moyran of the Beckar, in whose territory the Swan River settlement was established. At first he won the respect of colonists for his friendly and courteous manner, and his recognition of Gov Stirling as his dead brother probably contributed to this. Nevertheless, angered by the loss of tribal lands and the murder of members of his family and tribe, he killed a settler, William Gaze, in June 1832, a servant named Entwhistle in August 1832, and two brothers, Thomas and John Velvick in April 1833. He was briefly imprisoned on Carnac Island near Fremantle in 1832 for the murder of Gaze but escaped by boat to the mainland. The escape went unchallenged, but on 4 May 1833 Yagan and his father Midgegeroo were proclaimed outlaws for the Velvick murders, for which Midgegeroo was executed on 1 June 1833.

In July 1833 Yagan and another Aborigine, Heegan, were killed by two men William and James Keats, who had befriended Yagan, and betrayed him for the £30 reward. Yagan's head was taken, smoked and later exhibited in England and his ritual scars were flayed and made into a belt. Many colonists were disgusted by the treachery of the Keats brothers and praised Yagan's attempts to defend his people and lands.

**Further reading** N.J. Green, 'Yagan the Patriot' in L. Hunt (ed), *Westralian portraits*, Nedlands 1979.

**YOUNG AUSTRALIA LEAGUE** was founded in 1905 in WA by John Simons. The league's aim is to educate young Australians through travel. Young men and women are assisted to participate in tours and also sporting, social and cultural programs. Tours are regularly arranged by the league, both within Australia and overseas. The league helps youth leaders and teachers to plan excursions, and also runs youth hostels in several states.

**YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION**  
A non-radical, non-political, non-sectarian interna-



*Yagan, chief of the Swan River group of Aborigines. Portrait by George Cruikshank and sculptor R. Howell. Yagan's shrunken head was examined by London phrenologist T. J. Pettigrew who observed that it indicated a man 'of a domineering and overbearing character' with a 'thirst for revenge' whose memory would be 'considerable and accurate' but whose 'natural disposition would incline to cruelty, cunning, malevolence, and revenge'.*

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*Galarrwuy Yunupingu hunts fish with a spear at his home at Ski Beach, Gove Peninsula, NT. Photograph, 1982.*

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tional movement founded in London in 1844 which provides opportunities for young people to develop a fully-rounded way of life based on the Christian faith. The YMCA provides hostel accommodation and organises a wide range of social and recreational activities. The first Australian branch was set up in Sydney in 1853 with John Fairfax (1804–77), newspaper proprietor, as president. Today there are over 120 branches with over 320 000 members in Australia.

G.P. WALSH

**YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION** A non-racial, non-political, non-sectarian international movement founded in London in 1855 which aims to help girls and young women develop a fully-rounded way of life based on the Christian faith. The first Australian association was founded in Geelong, Vic, in 1872 and branches were set up in Sydney and Adelaide in 1880. The YWCA provides hostel accommodation and a wide range of social, recreational and community services.

G.P. WALSH

**YUNUPINGU, Galarrwuy (James)** (1948–), chairman of the Northern Land Council (NLC), was born at Yirkkala, Gove Peninsula, Arnhem Land, NT, in 1948, son of Mungarrwuy, elder of the Gumadj clan. He began formal schooling at eleven and studied to be a missionary at Bible College, Brisbane, but later

rejected Christianity as a foreign religion which confused and immobilised Aborigines. In 1971 he acted as principal court interpreter in the Gove land rights case, the first legal challenge to mining company rights by Aborigines. From 1976 he was employed by the newly formed NLC and in 1977 became its chairman. In that position he was largely responsible for the development of the NLC as a powerful voice for land rights. The understanding which many Australians now have of the relationship between Aborigines and the land can be partly attributed to him. In 1978 he negotiated the controversial Ranger mining agreement on behalf of his people, and was appointed to the Uranium Advisory Council. He was named Australian of the Year in 1979 but in 1980 lost the NLC chairmanship, amid accusations of having lost sight of Aboriginal goals and selling out to mining interests. In 1983 he was re-elected as chairman, and in the same year, with the death of his father, became an elder of his clan. His work was recognised with the Order of Australia in 1985.

**Further reading** A.G. Henderson, 'Aborigines and the mining industry in the Alligator River Region: divergent views of reality and their implications', BA Hons thesis Qld Uni 1983; G. Yunupingu, National Press Club Speech, 10 Nov 1977 in *Land rights news* Nov 77, 17; and *Chain reaction* 4, 1, 1978.